Appointment

From: Contreras, Peter [Contreras.Peter@epa.gov]
Sent: 12/11/2020 6:09:02 PM
To: Baron, Adam [Baron.Adam@epa.gov]

Subject: Adam: please review, OHA PWSs in Umatilla
Location: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Start: 12/16/2020 9:30:00 PM
End: 12/16/2020 10:00:00 PM
Show Time As: Tentative

Microsoft Teams meeting

Join on your computer or mobile app
Click here to join the meeting

Or call in (audio only)
Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP) United States, Seattle
Phone Conference ID: Ex. 6 Personal Privacy (PP)
Find a local number | Reset PIN

By participating in EPA hosted virtual meetings and events, you are consenting to abide by the agency's terms of use. In addition, you acknowledge that content you post may be collected and used in support of FOIA and eDiscovery activities.

Learn More | Meeting options

From: Contreras, Peter
Sent: Friday, December 11, 2020 10:07 AM
To: Baron, Adam <Baron.Adam@epa.gov>
Subject: Adam: please review, OHA PWSs in Umatilla

Hi Adam: I'm drafting a letter on the Umatilla status and need your help in accurately summarizing the review you did in February (included below) of the status of PWS's listed in the petition. Here's my draft. I'll send a meeting invite for next week to discuss with you, but if you could check your email/notes to help finalize that would be helpful.

Thanks!

Peter

DRAFT TEXT:

OHA is addressing Public Water Systems (PWS) impacts from nitrates with existing regulatory authorities. In February 2020, ECAD reviewed all impacted PWSs listed in the 1431 petition. Samples for 18 of the 20 water systems were below the nitrate MCL. Two of the 20 PWSs had recent samples above the nitrate MCL. One of the PWSs has been under enforcement since 2018, and the second ...[was this the ODF fish hatchery?].. Four other water systems had nitrate concentrations or trends between 5 and 10 ppm, but none of the water systems have been on the EPA's list of priority systems that EPA and OHA review each quarter. Based on this review, OHA is following EPA's existing SDWA Enforcement Response Policy with respect to regulated PWSs through the compliance and enforcement tools available to them. OHA's Drinking Water Online Website also makes this information easily accessible for interested parties to access, in addition to any required regulatory public notice or consumer confidence reporting requirements.

Peter Contreras | Chief
Field, Data & Drinking Water Enforcement Section
Water Enforcement & Field Branch (20C-04)
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division
Seattle | US EPA
206 553 6708

From: Baron, Adam <Baron.Adam@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2020 3:43 PM
To: Winiecki, Eric <Winiecki.Eric@epa.gov>; Contreras, Peter <Contreras.Peter@epa.gov>; Kenknight, Jeff <Kenknight.Jeff@epa.gov>; Thurmon, Clarke <Thurmon.Clarke@epa.gov>; Steiner-Riley, Cara <Steiner-Riley.Cara@epa.gov>
Cc: Martinson, Mathew <martinson.mathew@epa.gov>
Subject: Public well info on Umatilla 1431 Petition

All –

I looked through all impacted PWSs listed in the 1431 petition. See graph below for specifics. Here are high level talking points for call with OHA/ others.

- Recent samples for 18 of the 20 show they are below the Nitrate MCL.
- 2 of the 20 have recent samples above the Nitrate MCL. OHA has one under enforcement since 2018. EPA will ask OHA for more info on each.
- 4 others have concerning trends that EPA will flag for OHA.
- None of these are on the ETT list which suggests OHA is following the ERP with respect to these systems.
- OHA's Drinking Water Online Website makes this information easily accessible for interested parties to access.

PWS Name	Population	Current Nitrate	Monitoring Date and Dates	ETT Score and Enforcement Status
Alive and Well	50	5.64 on 2/19	10.2 on 4/06	1
Bellinger Produce	100	4.76 on 1/20	50s multiple samples in 10/19. Also history range from 20-28 in 11/18 and 1/19. 10/15. 3/14	0 – under an Admin Order for Nitrate MCL since 12/18. Will ask OHA for info on construction schedule and when expected to fall below MCL. Civil penalty due 2/4/20
Boardman, City of	3500	1.86 on 4/15	7.5 on 2/03	0
Comfort Inn Hermiston	100	No detect on 12/19	History of range from 7 to 12 from 5/15 back to 06	0
Lamb Weston	500	5.8 on 12/19	3 samples over 11 in 2019, before that in the 5 to 6 range back to '05	5 - for various M&R violations. Flag high samples with OHA.
Country Garden Estates MHP	175	9.8 on 12/00	5 to 6 back to '04	1
Hat Rock Mobile Court	60	ND on 11/19	10 on 4/06	0
Hat Rock Water Company	96	2.1 on 12/19	14 on 2/16 and 10 to 14 from 2014 to 2016.	6 for late reporting on Nitrate. Under a BCA in 2016 to construct Nitrate treatment.
Herreras Park	20	5.7 on 12/19.	8.1 on 3/18. History between 4 and 8 going back to 2011	0
Irrigon, City of	1885	1.4 on 1/19	6 to 15 from 2008 back for shallow wells. Those were closed and fell to 1 or ND.	0
JR Simplot/ Calpine	22	2.7 on 12/19	9.9 on 8/19 and range from 2 to 9 going back to '04. Trend is up in the summer.	1. Flagg for OHA on trends up.
North Hill Water Corp	100	ND on 7/19	9 on 10/07	1
ODF/ WL irrigion Fish Hatchery	18	21.2 on 4/19	ND on 8/16 for new well that came on line 12/17, ranges from 6 to 21 on old well in '18 and '19.	2. Verify understanding with OHA if they are blending the wells.
OPRD Hat Rock State Park	500	4.6 on 9/19	19.4 on 1/18 with history between 4 and 15 going back to '11	0
Port of Morrow	1350	3.6 on 1/20	9.3 on 9/19. 10 on 9/09. Range from 3 to 9 going back to 06.	1
River Point Farms LLC	250	26 on 1/20	26 on 7/19. Range from 1 to 26 going back 704 with many over 10	0 but with 20 points RTC'ed for Nitrate MCL in last two years. No enforcement. Will flag for OHA.
Short Stop #1	200	5.1 on 3/19	9.2 on 1/11. History between 4 and 9 going back to '07	1

Space Age Fruel	950	9.6 on 12/19	28 on 12/12. Hitstory on shallow well from 3 to 28 back to '03	0 but with 10 points RTC'ed for Nitrate MCL in '16. Will flag for OHA.
Sunridge Water Inc.	200	8.4 on 9/19	14 on 9/08. Range from6 to 14 going back to '04	0
Upper Columbia Mill	70		14 on 4/15.	Inactive since 2016

Adam Baron
Drinking Water Enforcement Officer
Field, Data, & Drinking Water Enforcement Section
Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Division
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 155
Seattle, Washington 98101
Office (206) 553-6361
baron.adam@epa.gov

From: Winiecki, Eric <Winiecki.Eric@epa.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 29, 2020 10:37 AM
To: Contreras, Peter <Contreras.Peter@epa.gov>; Kenknight, Jeff <Kenknight.Jeff@epa.gov>; Baron, Adam <Baron.Adam@epa.gov>; Thurmon, Clarke <Thurmon.Clarke@epa.gov>
Subject: Private Well Information

- This map is from the petition… the petitioners estimate that "likely 30 to 40% of all private wells" in the GWMA exceed the nitrate MCL. If correct, in my experience this is toward the higher end of percentage of wells in agricultural areas where nitrate contamination is a problem (in the Lower Yakima Valley GWMA, for example, it's closer to 20%). I looked through the GWMA website but couldn't find a similar GWMA estimate of the percentage of wells that exceed the MCL… it might be there somewhere though.

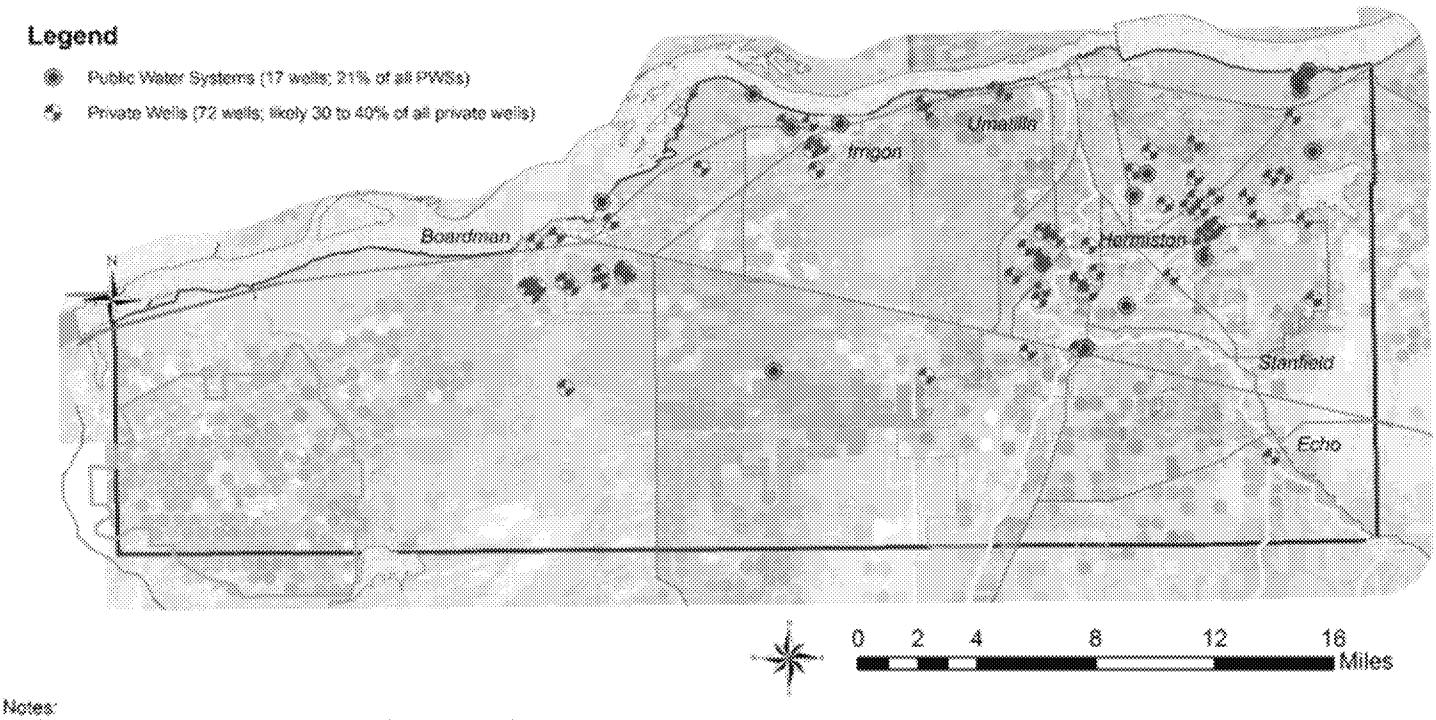
- Below the map is a GWMA summary of historical nitrate trends.

- My quick review of materials on the GWMA website suggests that the GWMA may think that the main nitrate source is irrigated agriculture in general but not necessarily related to CAFOs, whereas the petitioners view CAFOs a major unaddressed source.

- Nick Peak says the permit for the 30k-cow dairy has not yet been issued. He is going to ask ODA about the timing.

Fig. 3, Drinking Water Sources with Documented Nitrate Exceedances[64]

Public and Private Drinking Water Wells that Have Exceeded the Nitrate Drinking Water Standard
Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area



Notes:
Public wells include both active and inactive Public Water Systems monitored by Oregon Health Authority. Of the 181 PWSs in Umatilla and Morrow County, 18 (10%) have exceeded the nitrate drinking water standard at least once. 17 of these wells (94%) are within the LUBGWMA. Of the 81 PWSs in the LUBGWMA, 17 (21%) have exceeded the standard at least once. These percentages do not take into account which aquifer these wells tap. Because some PWS wells are likely completed in the basalt aquifer, the percentage of PWS wells with high nitrate that utilize only the alluvial aquifer is likely higher than 21%.

Private wells on this map include 50 wells from the Real Estate Transaction database, 14 wells from the regular LUBGWMA Network wells, 7 domestic wells that were included in the 2009 Synoptic Sampling Event, and the Navy Bombing Range well. Approximately 10% of the RET results show nitrate values over the standard. Because the RET database is known to contain results from treated samples and basalt wells, it is likely not a good indicator of the magnitude or extent of nitrate contamination. Approximately 42% of the domestic wells in the LUBGWMA network show nitrate values over the standard. Approximately 30% of the domestic wells sampled during the 2009 Synoptic Sampling Event showed nitrate values over the standard.

Summary of Nitrate Trend Analyses
Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area

Type of Analysis	Data Used	Time frame	Increasing	Decreasing	Flat	Statistically Insignificant	Comment
Seasonal Kendall Trends at Individual wells	113 Food processor MWs	Time of well installation through December 2001	72 (64%)	8 (7%)	3 (3%)	30 (27%)	Most sites and most wells show increasing nitrate trends
Seasonal Kendall Area-Wide Trend	38 Bi-monthly network wells	1998 through 2004					Statistically insignificant flat trend
Comparison of 1992 and 2003 Synoptic Sampling Events	118 wells with detectable nitrate during	1992 to 2003	78 (66%)	40 (34%)			Most wells show increasing nitrate trends

	both events						
Comparison of 1992 and 2003 Synoptic Sampling Events	90 wells with a RPD >10% & actual difference of > 0.5 mg/l	1992 to 2003	65 (72%)	25 (28%)			Most wells show increasing nitrate trends
Seasonal Kendall Trends at Individual wells	34 wells with detectable nitrate during both synoptic samping events	1992 through 2003	19 (56%)	9 (26%)		6 (18%)	Most wells show increasing nitrate trends
Seasonal Kendall Trends at Individual wells	133 Food processor MWs	Time of well installation through December 2005	74 (58%)	25 (20%)	0 (0%)	28 (22%)	Most sites and most wells show increasing nitrate trends
Seasonal Kendall Area-Wide Trend	38 Bi-monthly network wells	1998 through 2006					Statistically insignificant flat trend